



Overview



Neelambari is a luxurious resort on the banks of Karuvannur *puzha* (river). It is constructed in authentic Kerala style and evokes grandeur and tradition. The central building consists of a classical performance arena (*Koothambalam*) and a traditional courtyard (*Nalukettu*). The cottages are luxurious with their own private balconies, spacious and clean bathrooms and well appointed bedrooms (each unit has a space of more than 75 sqm). Neelambari is situated in a very serene atmosphere right on the bank of a river, in a quiet, verdant village in central Kerala. There are several natural and historical attractions in the vicinity. Despite its rural charm, the facility is accessible, being less than an hours drive from Cochin International Airport. It is also easily accessible by rail and road and the nearest city is Thrissur, just 13 kms away. The facility offers authentic Ayurveda treatment, Yoga lessons, nature and village tourism, kayak and traditional boat trips in the river as well as traditional cultural performances in its Koothambalam.



How guests can plan their stay at Neelambari

Day experiences
<p>Close to Our Arts - Close to Our Arts is a special cultural package from Neelambari that involves a full day of performances, lecture demonstrations, artiste interactions interspersed with river cruises and village experiences. The program is presently held with a monthly frequency. Next scheduled dates are 18th Nov, 16th Dec and 13th Jan. More details can be had at http://www.neelambari.co.in/events.php</p>
<p>Cholliyattam - Cholliyattam is a unique day package from Neelambari that allows a visitor to get acquainted with our classical art forms in an informal and personal setting. It can be arranged for a small group of two to a medium sized group of 15-20 guests. Duration of the program is flexible from as short as three hours and to a full day. Other village and river experiences can be weaved into the program as desired.</p>
<p>River and village - Kayaking and traditional boat cruise is possible in the beautiful Karuvannurpuzha (river) that flows by Neelambari. Typically there is no group size or time restriction that is possible for both activities. The scenic setting in and around Arattupuzha with paddy fields and verdant landscapes offers a pleasant setting for exploring the village.</p>
<p>Mural workshop - Neelambari hosts a set of brilliant paintings done in the Kerala mural tradition. A walk-through of these paintings with their engaging narratives and technical styles and a hands-on workshop in the theory and practice of Kerala mural tradition is an engaging experience for anyone interested in painting. The activity can be arranged for groups varying from 2-15. It would take two to four hours depending on the interest level of participants.</p>
<p>Kalari visits - Kalaris are traditional classrooms where Gurus impart their knowledge to students. For performing arts, a visit to the Kalari means a close encounter with the art. Around Neelambari there are accomplished Gurus in Kathakali, Koodiyattam, Mohiniattam and Nangiarkoothu. With prior arrangement our guests can visit one or more of these Kalaris for an enchanting experience with the art form. The activity requires at least two guests and would take three to four hours.</p>
Weekend experiences
<p><i>(For a weekend stay in Neelambari all the above experiences plus those below can be considered)</i></p>
<p>Ayurveda - At Neelambari we offer genuine Ayurveda procedures. Simple treatments like Abhyangam (massage) can be done as part of a weekend package as a destressing option for the body and mind.</p>
<p>Temple visit - Around Neelambari there are several legendary and magnificent temples. Within a 15 km radius there are several temples that has an antiquity of more than a</p>



millennium. Visiting these temples from a pilgrimage and / or historical perspective is an unforgettable journey into Kerala's medieval past.

Yoga session - Neelambari has a dedicated space for Yoga practice. The serene setting in and around Neelambari is very conducive for Yoga and meditation. We have Yoga instructors who refuse to compromise on its practice for any touristic considerations. One hour session in the morning or evening can be arranged to suit the requirements and ability of our guests.

Day trip - Athirapally - The spectacular Athirapally waterfalls is less than an hour from Neelambari. Athirapally and its surrounding reserve forest offers a great day trip destination (or more) for anyone visiting the area. The destination is best avoided on weekends and public holidays as it tends to get overcrowded.

Day trip - Guruvayur - The magnificent Guruvayur temple is an hours drive from Neelambari. For pilgrimages this is perhaps one of the most sought after destinations in Kerala. For regular visitors too (especially overseas visitors who are typically not allowed inside the temple), this is a great destination as the murals and the temple atmosphere offers a unique experience.

Day trip - Muziris - The Muziris heritage site is an hours drive from Neelambari. The destination offers several interesting historical sites for a visitor. Kodungalloor was the center of ancient Kerala and hub of its trade with the ancient Western world from the time of Romans and offers several interesting possibilities for a day excursion.

Day trip - Chimmony - Chimmony reservoir and Marottichal waterfalls offer another great destination from Neelambari, being a short drive away. A forest trek organized by the Kerala Forest Department in Chimmony is a great experience. The Marottichal waterfall accessible only after a trek through the forest is another pristine natural experience.

Day trip - Thrissur - For those wishing to engage in urban life and shopping, Thrissur City is a great getaway half an hour away. Vadakkumnathan temple at the center of the city, churches, several historical monuments and museums and the bustle of the city offer an unforgettable slice of urban life in Kerala.

Vacation experiences

(For a longer stay in Neelambari all the above experiences plus those below can be considered)

Rejuvenation - An effective rejuvenation package using Ayurveda, Yoga and meditation would need a minimum of one week. Neelambari offers authentic rejuvenation experiences using these effective and timeless traditions. Not just the procedures, the serene village setting and beautiful nature around Neelambari too has a therapeutic effect.

Festival tours - From December to May is festival time in central Kerala. A host of magnificent temples each with its distinctive festival involving processions, cultural performances, percussion orchestra (*melam*) and rituals offer a trip into a magical world. The experience can last from a single day to a week and can be organized for any group size.



Parambikkulam trip - For the nature lover Athirapally literally marks the beginning of a great journey into untamed and beautiful nature. Crossing the Western Ghats through the thick rainforest is an unforgettable experience and the Parambikkulam tiger reserve on the other side offers great Safari and jungle stay options. The experience would take at least three days and can be arranged for a group of four or more.

Culture and history exploration - Beyond day packages, Neelambari is always happy to arrange extended and in depth cultural and historical exploration options for interested visitors. This can involve practising an art form with a Guru, research as well as extended tour and exploration of the historical sites in and around Thrissur.

